

WHAT A FOREST GIVES US



We can get a lot of gifts from a forest, which enrich our lives, including food, medicine and so forth. Some examples are...



Fruits and Vegetables



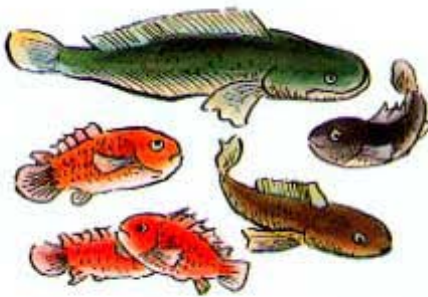
Materials for wood crafts



Herbs



Nuts



Fish



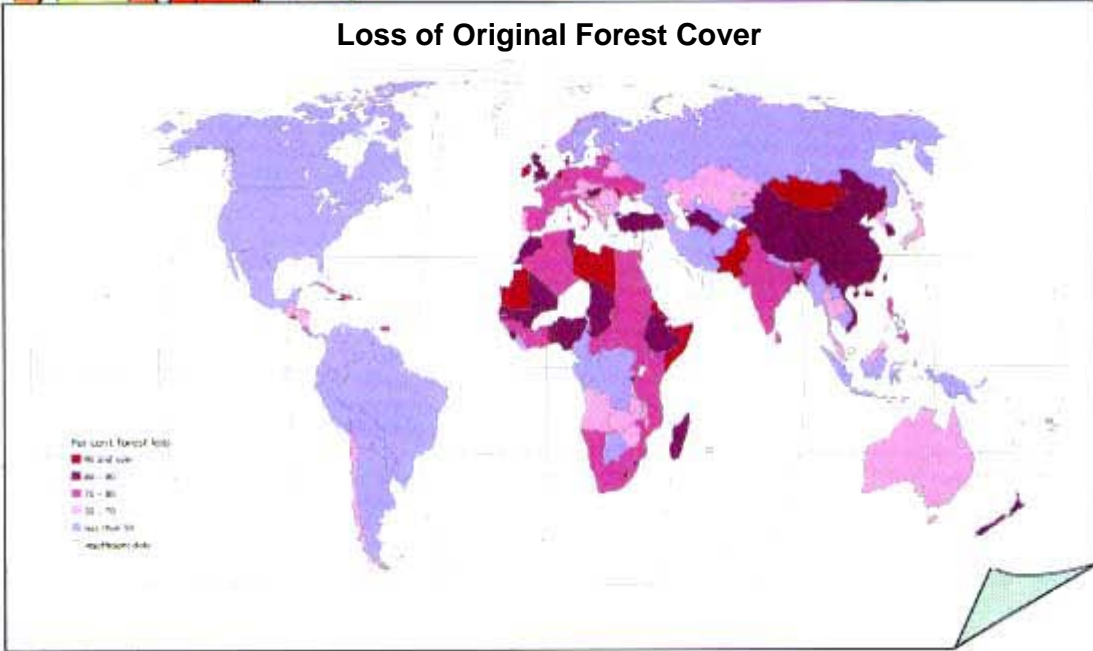
Mushrooms

SITUATION OF FORESTS DEPLETION

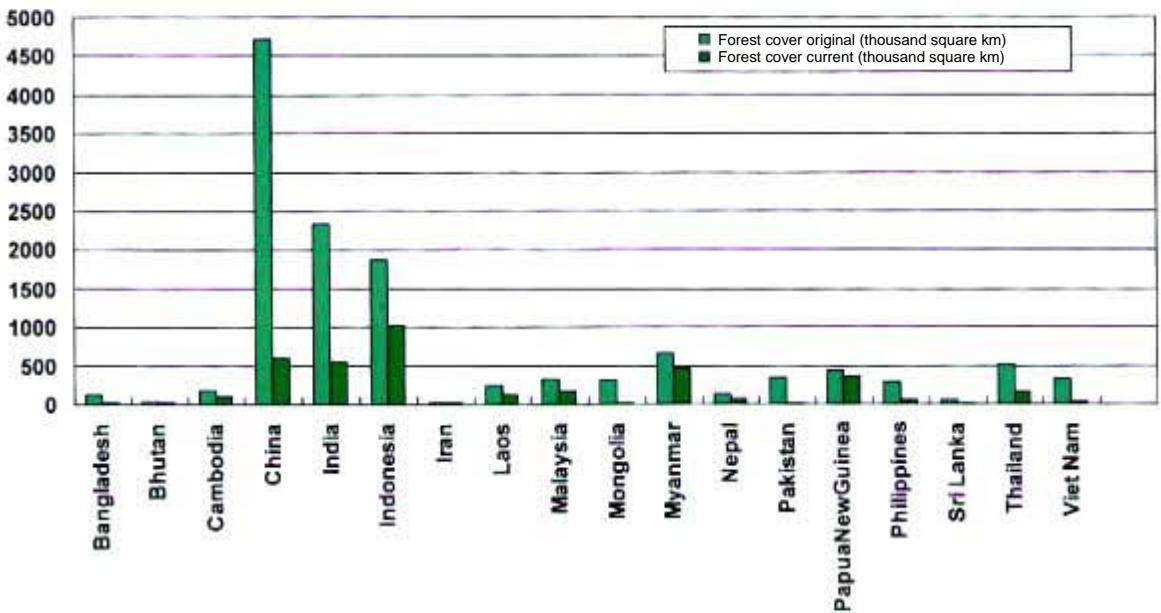


Now, let's see how much forests we have in the world. This is a world map of forests. A long time ago, about 80% of the Earth's surface was covered by forests. However, now mainly due to human activities, forest area has been reduced to 36% of the Earth's surface and is still shrinking every year.

Loss of Original Forest Cover



Original and Current Forest Cover by Country



(original forest cover: potential cover assuming current climate conditions and no human interference.)
 Source: WWF, Living Planet Report, 1999
 FAO, State of the World's Forest 1997

FOREST ARE DISAPPEARING

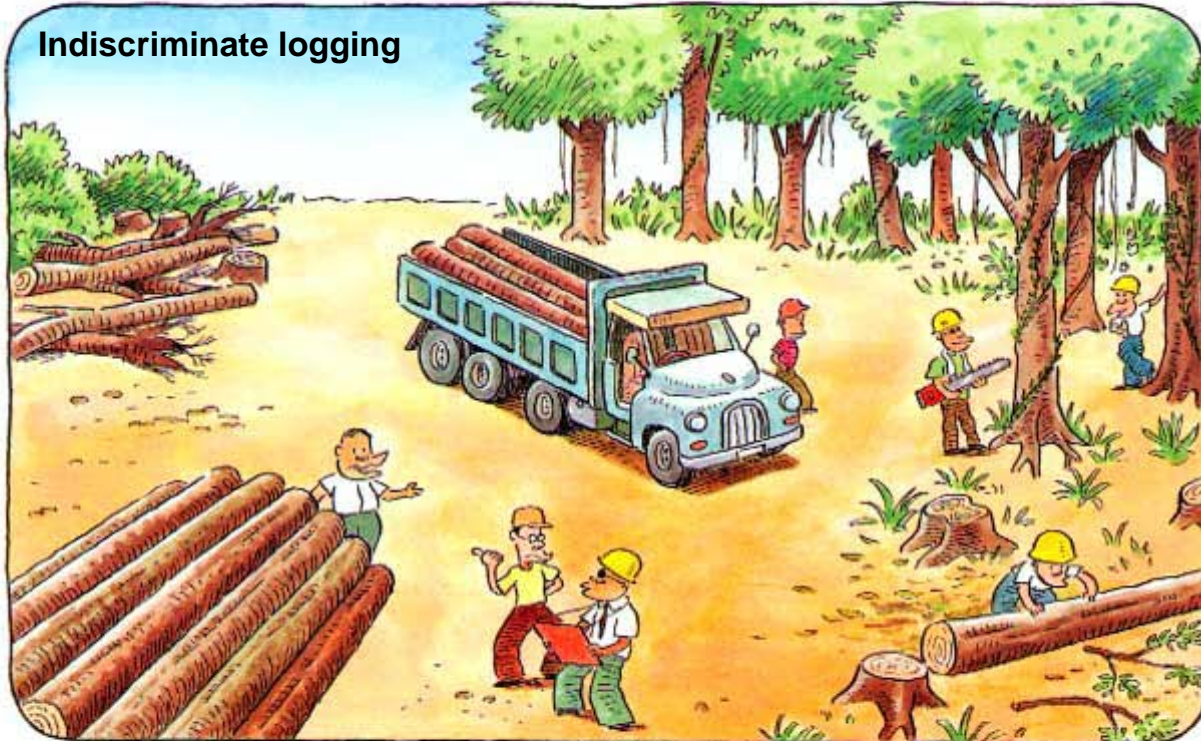
We now know that forests are essential for our daily lives. However, in recent years, people have cleared the forests to great extent, for convenience or profit. Some reasons for the depletion of forest areas are....



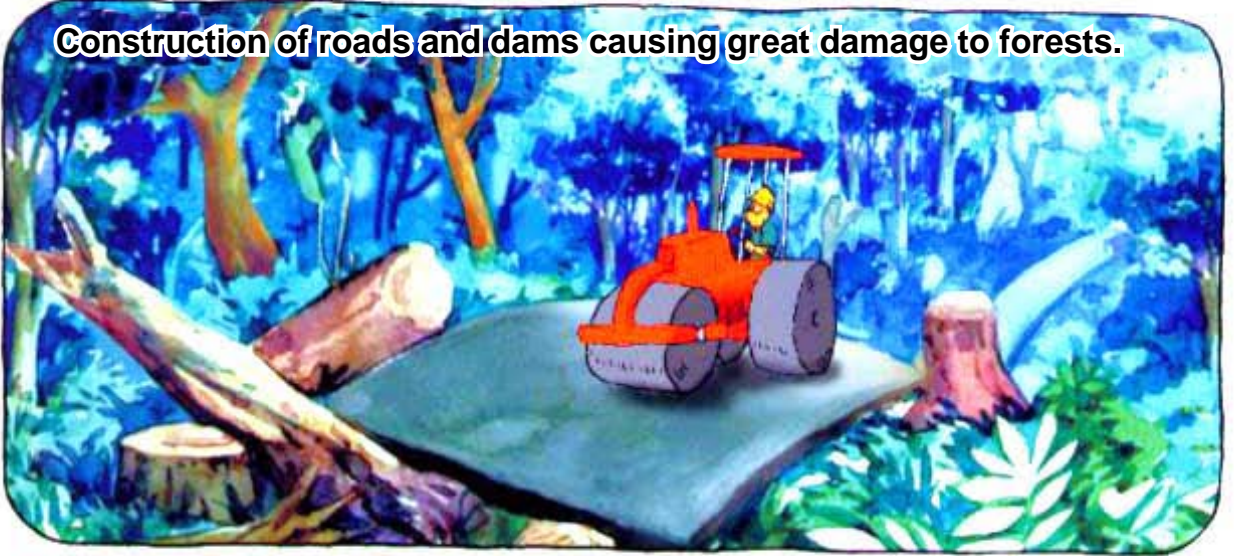
Conversion into agricultural land on a large scale



Indiscriminate logging



Construction of roads and dams causing great damage to forests.



Large-scale mining



Excessive use of water for fuel

